



Docket No. 1232-4675

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): MATSUI, et al.

Group Art 2624

Serial No.: 09/769,917

Examiner: J. Thompson

Filed: January 25, 2001

For: IMAGE READING APPARATUS, COMPOSITE APPARATUS USING THE IMAGE READING APPARATUS, AND CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR THE IMAGE READING APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Mail Stop - RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Sir:

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified application prior to continued examination on the merits. The Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) as a submission under 37 CFR § 1.114.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on Page 10 of this paper.